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MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

TERRY KAVANAGH editor
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TOM DeFALCO editor in chief

Stan Lee Presents:

WOLVERINE "SAVE THE TIGER" 1
WRITER — Chris Claremont
PENCILER — John Buscema
INKER — Klaus Janson
LETTERER — Tom Orzechowski
COLORIST — Glynis Oliver

MAN-THING "ELEMENTS OF TERROR" 9
WRITER — Steve Gerber
PENCILER — Tom Sutton
INKER — Tom Sutton
LETTERER — Bill Oakley
COLORIST — Petra Scotese

MASTER OF KUNG FU "CROSSING LINES" 17
WRITER — Doug Moench
PENCILER — Tom Grindberg
INKER — Dave Cockrum
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COLORIST — Petra Scotese

THOR "SILENT THUNDER" 25
WRITER — Al Milgrom
PENCILER — Al Milgrom
INKER — Al Milgrom
LETTERER — Jim Novak
COLORIST — Greg Wright

"THE ORDEAL" — PART 4 OF 10
Wolverine has been taken prisoner by Madripoor's crimelord, Roche — And none of Roche's enemies have ever left that villain's citadel alive.

"RAGE AND DESIGN" — PART 4 OF 12
At the Freedom Science Studies Institute in California, Senator Wilbur Wycombe has become the latest subject in a series of deadly experiments to perfect Ted Sallis's Super-Soldier serum. In Washington, D.C. reporter Micky DiTillio has undertaken an investigation into the senator's disappearance. And in the Florida swamps, the slime creature called Man-Thing has also become entwined in the widening political scandal, as the newly adopted "familiar" of the devil priestess whose assassins serve a sinister shadow government.

"WATER" — PART 4 OF 8
In the wake of Leiko Wu's abduction, Shang-Chi demands to know what kind of "game" she was playing with Tarr, Reston, and the late Xiao. Tarr reveals that they were trying to prevent the imminent coalition of terrorist factions from all over the globe. Rejoining Reston, they find a package containing dead fish and Leiko's severed hand. Chi vows to locate the uniting terrorists and bring Leiko back . . . But still refuses to join Tarr's agency.

Wherein Thor learns that even an immortal can die . . .

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™ Vol. 1, No. 4, Early October, 1988. Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD COMPANY. James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published bi-weekly. Copyright © 1988 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.75 in Canada. Subscription rate $15.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $21.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. PRINTED IN CANADA.

SAVE the TIGER
STARRING
WOLVERINE
CHAPTER 4:
THE ORDEAL
I'VE SEEN BETTER PLACES. BETTER DAYS.
I ASSUME I'M STILL SOMEWHERE IN MADRIPOOR, ISLAND PRINCIPALITY SOUTH OF SINGAPORE. I CAME HERE AS A FAVOR TO A DYING MAN, WHOSE LAST WORDS WERE "SAVE THE TIGER."
THINGS HAVE BEEN GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE EVER SINCE.
I DON'T LIKE CAGES--OR CHAINS--
--NOW THAT I'VE WOKEN UP...
...SOONER I HIT THE ROAD...

HELLO, STRANGER?
REMEMBER ME?
SAPPHIRE STYX.

WE MET AT THE PRINCESS BAR, NIGHT I HIT TOWN. FROM THE FIRST, I SENSED SHE WAS MORE'N SHE SEEMED. BUT BY THE TIME I REALIZED HOW MUCH MORE -- AN' HOW DANGEROUS--
-- IT WAS TOO LATE.
I TOLD YOU WE'D WAKE YOU, BABY...

...BEFORE THE FUN BEGAN.
ACTUALLY, SHE'D SAID, "BEFORE YOU DIE."
I TRY TO STRUGGLE...
... BUT NOTHING WORKS...
...I BARELY STIR THE CHAINS.

THEN, HER LIPS LOCK ONTO MINE...
...AN' I'M DROWNING.

DARKNESS-- GROWING DEEPER, CONSUMING ME WITHOUT AN' WITHIN. MY LIFE-LIGHT-- THE NATURAL ENERGY OF MY BEING-- SHININ' MORE AN' MORE DIMLY...
...AS SAPPHIRE STEALS IT FOR HER OWN.

OH LORDY-- IT'S SUCH A WASTE TO LEAVE YOU TO ROCHE'S TENDER MERCIES.
I'VE NEVER TASTED SUCH A POWERFUL, PRIMAL ESSENCE.
IF I DARED DEFY HIM, I'D STEAL YOU FOR MY VERY OWN.
SHE'S MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER...
...WHILE I CAN HARDLY BREATHE...
...MY HEART CAN HARDLY BEAT.

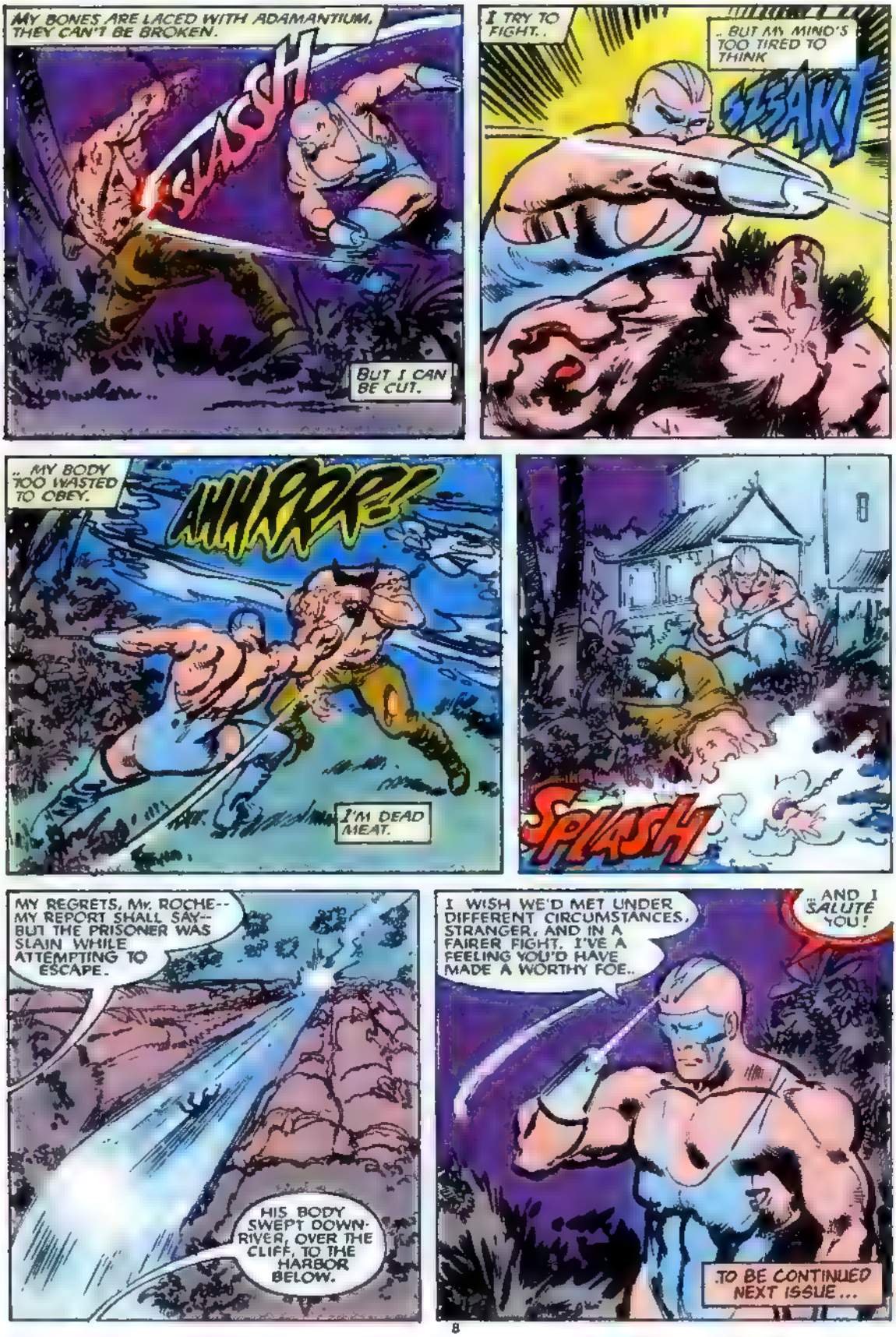
FORTUNATELY, DEAR SAPPHIRE, YOUR INTELLECT -- AND INSTINCT FOR SELF-PRESERVATION -- RULES YOUR PASSION.
I TRUST YOU'VE RENDERED OUR GUEST APPROPRIATELY TRACTABLE.
WEAK AS A KITTEN, DARLING.
SPLENDID.
I AM ROCHE.
YOU'VE ALREADY MET SAPPHIRE AND MY CHIEF ENFORCER, RAZOR-FIST.
I AM THE PREMIER CRIMELORD OF MADRIPOOR--
--WHICH, IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, IS A VERY GREAT THING INDEED.
RECENTLY, HOWEVER, AN UPSTART-- KNOWN ONLY AS THE TIGER -- HAS ARISEN TO CHALLENGE ME.
THE LATE, UNLAMENTED MR. CHAPEL WAS AN ASSOCIATE OF THIS PERSON. AND, ULTIMATELY, A GUEST -- AS YOU ARE NOW -- IN THESE VERY CHAMBERS...
..WHERE, THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF MY FAITHFUL INQUISITOR, HE WAS PURSUADED TO REVEAL ALL HE KNEW ABOUT MY NEW RIVAL.
REGRETTABLY, THAT PROVED TO BE DISTRESSINGLY LITTLE.
I'D THOUGHT Mr. CHAPEL DISPOSED OF -- UNTIL YOU ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, HAVING EVIDENTLY ENCOUNTERED THAT GENTLEMAN BEFORE HIS DEMISE.
HENCE, I FEEL OBLIGED TO SEEK FROM YOU...
...WHAT I DID FROM HIM.
SUPPOSE I'VE NOTHING TO TELL?
FOR YOUR SAKE, MY FRIEND...
"...I PRAY THAT IS NOT SO."

DAWN.
THE PRINCESS BAR.
PRINCESS BAR
A PROSPEROUS NIGHT, Mr. O' DONNELL?
WORTH THE EFFORT.
ROCHE SENT HIS BULLY-BOYS TO GIVE YOU TROUBLE.
I. SURVIVED.
I AM TOLD THAT THE STRANGER WHO HELPED YOU IS IN ROCHE'S HANDS.
TOO BAD. I LIKED HIM.
WHO WAS HE?
DUNNO.
I'D NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE, BUT HE KNEW ME, FROM THE OLD DAYS.
WHO YOU WERE, JESS, NOT WHO YOU ARE.
HE CAN'T TELL ROCHE ANYTHING THAT CAN HARM YOU.
THEN HE WILL DIE, O'DONNELL, AS DAVE CHAPEL DID.
I COULDN'T SAVE THE ONE, HOW CAN I ABANDON THE OTHER?
EVER STOP TO CONSIDER THAT MAY BE PRECISELY WHAT ROCHE IS COUNTING ON?
YOU DOING SOMETHING NOBLE, AND STUPID.
ONCE, NOT SO LONG AGO, I WOULD HAVE, WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.
BUT THOSE DAYS ARE GONE, THAT WOMAN NO MORE.
AND THE SADDEST THING IS...
...I DON'T EVEN MISS HER.

DAY'S END, FOURTEEN HOURS LATER...
FURTHER INTERROGATION AT THIS TIME IS POINTLESS, SIR.
STUBBORN, LITTLE CUSS, AIN'T HE?
BUT AT LEAST, RIGHT AT THE END, INKY, YOU MADE HIM SCREAM.
THAT'S SOMETHING, FOR A WHOLE DAY'S WORK.
HUSH, SAPPHIRE.
I WANTED RESULTS, INQUISITOR.
AND YOU SHALL HAVE THEM.
FOR NOW, THOUGH, I SUGGEST GIVING OUR GUEST...
...THE NIGHT TO RECOVER SOME OF HIS STRENGTH...
...AND CONTEMPLATE THE AGONIES TO COME.
I AM NOT A PATIENT MAN.
SSSIT
YARRR!!
NOR AM I KIND TO THOSE WHO FAIL ME.
HAVE I EVER, SIR?
ALWAYS A FIRST TIME, SWEETS.
COMING, BOSS!
AT LAST, A CHALLENGE TRULY WORTHY OF MY TALENTS.
YOU ARE A MAGNIFICENT SPECIMEN, STRANGER.
WHETHER YOU TALK OR NO...
...I SHALL ENJOY BREAKING YOU.
AND REST ASSURED...
...BREAK YOU...
...I SHALL!

OR KILL ME IN THE ATTEMPT.
I DON'T AIM TO LET HIM DO EITHER.
IF I YELL LOUD ENOUGH INSIDE MY MIND, WILL PSYLOCKE'S TELEPATHY HEAR THOSE PSYCHIC CRIES AN' SEND THE X-MEN TO THE RESCUE?
THE BLAZES WITH THAT.
I GOT INTO THIS MESS WITHOUT THEIR HELP, I'LL GET OUT THE SAME WAY.
NOW THAT I'M ALONE, I'M FREE TO ACT.
FORTUNATELY, IT DOESN'T TAKE ANY PHYSICAL STRENGTH TO "POP" MY CLAWS.
A MENTAL CUE TRIGGERS THE RELAYS...
SNIKT
... THAT EXTENDS 'EM FROM BIONIC HOUSINGS BUILT INTO MY FOREARMS.
BLADES ARE FORGED O' PURE ADAMANTIUM.
THEY'LL CUT THROUGH ANYTHING.
FLICK O' THE WRIST...
...TOSS O' THE ARM...
...TAKES CARE O' MY WRIST CHAINS.
WHICH TURNS OUT TO BE ABOUT ALL...
... I HAVE STRENGTH FOR.
THWUD

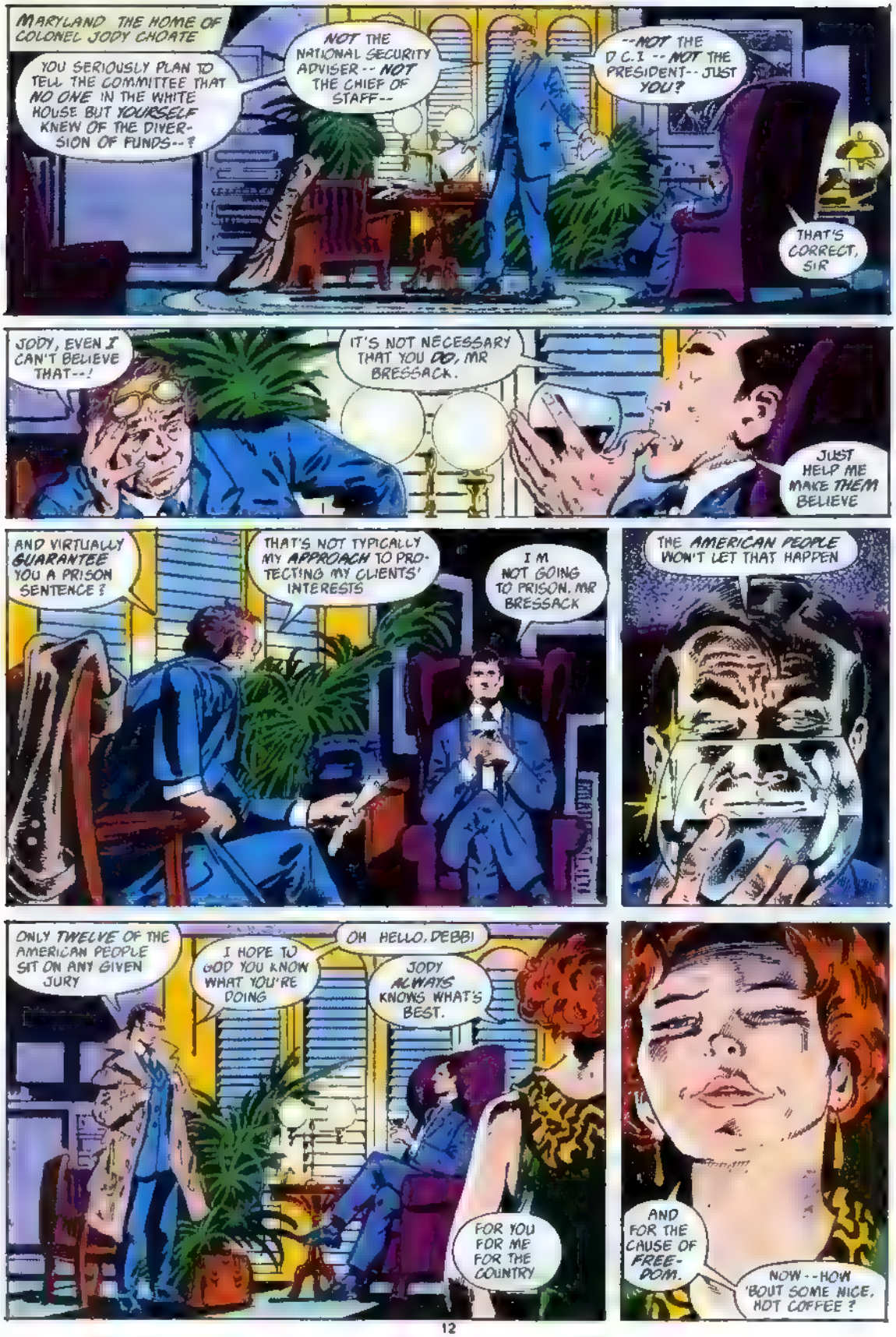
HOW LONG I'M DOWN-- AN' OUT-- I GOT NO IDEA.
I'M A MUTANT, MY SPECIAL PARAHUMAN POWER'S A HEALING FACTOR THAT CAN HANDLE ANY WOUND OR POISON OR DISEASE.
GIVEN TIME, I'LL BE GOOD AS NEW.
BUT THE MORE SERIOUS THE HURT, THE LONGER THAT TAKES.
AN' RIGHT NOW, I'M ABOUT AS BAD OFF AS CAN BE.
BLIND INSTINCT LEADS ME TO AN OUTSIDE GARDEN.
NO GUARDS. NOT SURE WHAT I CAN DO IF I MEET ANY.
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, STRANGER.
TERRIFIC. THOUGHT THINGS WERE TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.
I KNEW A WILL AS INDOMITABLE, A HEART AS COURAGEOUS, AS YOURS...
...WOULD FIND A WAY OUT OF ROCHE'S ABATOIR.
NEVER MET RAZORFIST.
HEARD OF HIM, THOUGH.
HAD HIS HANDS SURGICALLY REPLACED WITH SUPER-KEEN SWORDS.
ALWAYS WONDERED HOW HE EATS, OR GETS DRESSED.
WHEN LAST WE MET, MY BLADES WERE IN THEIR SCABBARDS.
TONIGHT, THEY ARE UNSHEATHED!
I KNOW YOU HAVE NOTHING TO TELL ROCHE.
SO I OFFER-- INSTEAD OF THE TORMENT OF ANOTHER DAY IN THE INQUISITOR'S HANDS--THE RELEASE OF A QUICK, CLEAN WARRIOR'S DEATH!
SHLUNK


MY BONES ARE LACED WITH ADAMANTIUM. THEY CAN'T BE BROKEN.
SLASH
BUT I CAN BE CUT.
I TRY TO FIGHT..
.. BUT MY MIND'S TOO TIRED TO THINK
SSAK!
.. MY BODY TOO WASTED TO OBEY.
AHHRR!
I'M DEAD MEAT.
SPLASH
MY REGRETS, Mr. ROCHE-- MY REPORT SHALL SAY-- BUT THE PRISONER WAS SLAIN WHILE ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE.
HIS BODY SWEPT DOWN-RIVER, OVER THE CLIFF, TO THE HARBOR BELOW.
I WISH WE'D MET UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES, STRANGER, AND IN A FAIRER FIGHT. I'VE A FEELING YOU'D HAVE MADE A WORTHY FOE..
.. AND I SALUTE YOU!
TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

MAN-THING
ELEMENTS OF TERROR - CHAPTER IV
RAGE AND DESIGN
THERE IS NO KINDNESS IN HER - BUT NO FEAR EITHER -- ONLY HUNGER.
HE FEELS WHAT SHE FEELS AN IRRESISTIBLE NEED TO DRAW CLOSER, TO KNOW THE INNER BEING OF THE OTHER
"HEART RATE ACCELERATING. PULSE AT 200 BEATS PER MINUTE... BLOOD PRESSURE 240 OVER 90..."
'SCUSE ME, MISTER?
SORRY, BUD. I HAVEN'T BOT ANY SPARE CHANGE
I DON'T WANT ANY YOUR NAME PITTILLO?
WHY? DO I WIN A PRIZE?
NOPE JUST A RIDE
THE MAN-THING SENSES THIS BUT CANNOT COMPREHEND IT
"SHOW ME" SHE MURMURS "CHANGE ME"
"THANK YOU, NURSE GOREN PREPARE FOR CELLULAR SCAN"

WELCOME TO MIAMI I'M HERE TO PICK YOU UP
GATE 8
NEWS TO ME, PAL NO ONE WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET ME
GATE 6
WELL LIKE I SAID NO BIG DEAL. PLANS'VE BEEN MODIFIED, THAT'S ALL
WHOSE PLANS?
WHAT'RE YOU SO JUMPY ABOUT?
SOME PEOPLE WANNA TALK TO YOU--
--HERE, GET IN--
--AND HELP YOU GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE CASE
THE VERY BOTTOM
IF YOU ENJOY BREATHING-- SILENCIO, AMIGO
WHAT'S AT STAKE IN THIS OPERATION IS A LOT MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR LIFE, PITILLO
--OR ANYBODY'S
YOU REALLY SHOULD'A CONSIDERED THAT BEFORE YOU GOT INVOLVED

THE SWAMP. SOME HOURS LATER
DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?! BURNED TO THE GROUND?!
THAT IDIOT BROAD JUST COST THE OPERATION MILLIONS!
YOU THINK DEMON DID THIS-- OR HER PEOPLE?
WHO ELSE? OOGA-BOOGA! BURN SHACK BURN!
SO WHAT IF THERE'S A STASH WORTH UN.
--ON THE OTHER HAND, MAYBE I FIGURED WRONG
THE SWAMP BEAST WAS HERE.
--AND COULD STILL BE HANGING AROUND
LET'S GET THIS GUY DEAD AND US OUT OF HERE
OH, DON'T RUSH ON MY ACCOUNT
WHOK
YOU IDIOT, MONTE RO-- DIDN'T I TELL YOU--
NOT TO TAKE YOUR EYES OFF HIM?!
;UNNNGH!
END O THE CHASE RODENT!
KRAK
;OWWGH!
DO NOT WORRY, COMPADRE-- IF THE 'GATORS DON'T GET HIM, THE SWAMP DEVIL WILL
HEY 'COMPADRE DO ME A FAVOR?
SHUT YOUR FACE BEFORE I SMASH IT IN


MARYLAND THE HOME OF COLONEL JODY CHOATE
YOU SERIOUSLY PLAN TO TELL THE COMMITTEE THAT NO ONE IN THE WHITE HOUSE BUT YOURSELF KNEW OF THE DIVERSION OF FUNDS--?
NOT THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER -- NOT THE CHIEF OF STAFF--
--NOT THE D.C.I. -- NOT THE PRESIDENT-- JUST YOU?
THAT'S CORRECT, SIR
JODY, EVEN I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT--!
IT'S NOT NECESSARY THAT YOU DO, MR BRESSACK.
JUST HELP ME MAKE THEM BELIEVE
AND VIRTUALLY GUARANTEE YOU A PRISON SENTENCE?
THAT'S NOT TYPICALLY MY APPROACH TO PROTECTING MY CLIENTS' INTERESTS
I'M NOT GOING TO PRISON, MR BRESSACK
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN
ONLY TWELVE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SIT ON ANY GIVEN JURY
I HOPE TO GOD YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING
OH HELLO, DEBBI
JODY ALWAYS KNOWS WHAT'S BEST.
FOR YOU FOR ME FOR THE COUNTRY
AND FOR THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM.
NOW--HOW 'BOUT SOME NICE, HOT COFFEE?

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
FREEDOM SCIENCE STUDIES INSTITUTE
PREP FOR CELLULAR SCAN COMPLETE, DOCTOR
THANK YOU, GOREN STEP INTO THE SHIELDED AREA, PLEASE
COMMENCING SCAN NOW.
URRREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
VITAL SIGNS STABILIZING AT VASTLY AUGMENTED RATES TISSUE DETERIORATION HALTED
IF HE LIVES I THINK WE'VE SUCCEEDED!
WE HAVE OUR SUPER-SOLDIER!
NNNNNUHH!
EEEEE
RRRIP KRUNCH

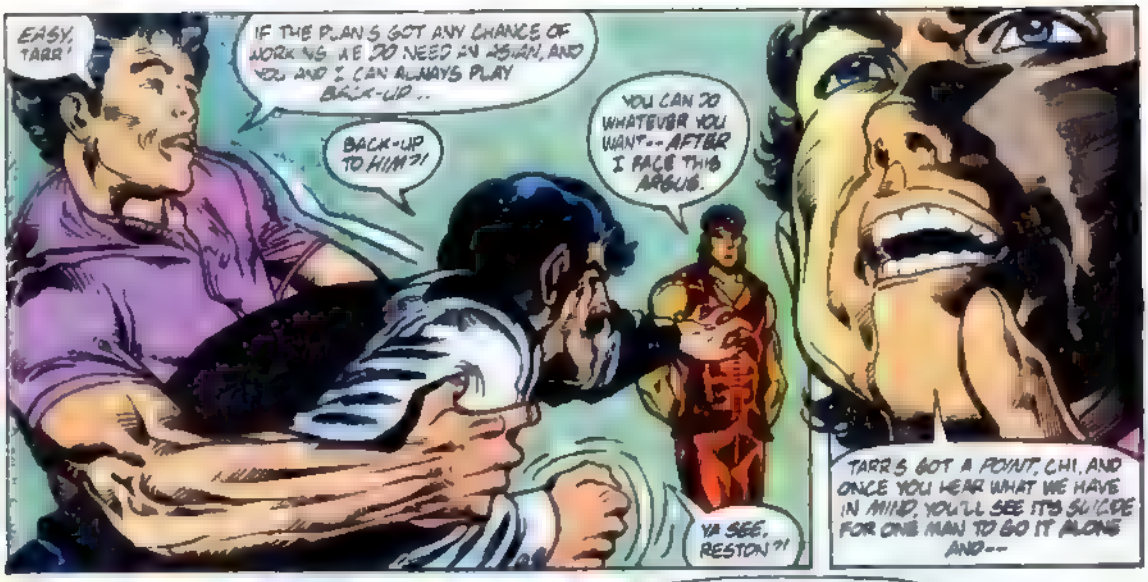
EEEEE-CHASH
STUH-HOP!!
PLEASE, YOU'LL INJURE YOURSELF!
WE ONLY WANT TO HELP YOU!
DOREN STAY BACK! HE'S
...OUT OF CONTROL
HELPNH?
HNNELPP?!
YUH-HOO... TOO?
DEVATOR
FULL YOUR-
BLOOD
OSH
AAAAGH!!

CASAGATA, FLORIDA, ON THE EDGE OF THE SWAMP
WHY DID I HAVE TO COME ALONG, ZANNER?
THIS PLACE GIVES ME MAJOR CREEPS--
--AND I DO NOT CREEP LIGHTLY!
FOR THE LAST TIME, MONTE RO-- SHADDUP!
ABOUT TIME YOU TRUNDLED IN, MAN WE GOT SOMETHING GOOD FOR YOU...!
AND, LIKE, YOU PROMISED TO DISCUSS MY REMUNERATION FOR THE SENATOR
I GOT NO TIME FOR YOUR WHINING, SKINNY
TAKE ME TO "DEMON", OR GET OUTTA MY SIGHT.
WHERE IS SHE?
OH, SHE'S HERE, MAN .. BUT SHE DOES NOT WISH TO BE DISTURBED...!
AND WHAT MADE THE GOVERNMENT USEFUL TO US WAS PRECISELY THAT ATTITUDE
DISTURB HER--
--OR I'LL MAKE SURE HER SUPPLY OF STUFF GETS DISTURBED
YOU DO NOT FEAR HER MAGIC AT ALL
NO WAY!
SCRATCH A SATANIST, AN' THERE'S NOTHIN' BUT ANOTHER DRUG-CRAZED PUNK UNDERNEATH
THAT'S WHAT MAKES 'EM SO RELIABLE FOR GOVERNMENT WORK
NOW, GO AWAY ZANNER. YOUR SERVICES ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED

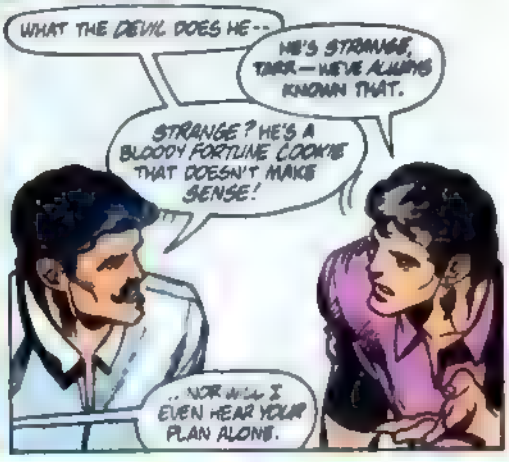
ARE YOU CRAZY? WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE -- BESIDES DEN MOTHER TO A PACK OF SEA STARVED SUB-HUMAN SCUM?
YOU WORK FOR ME, BABE -- GET THAT STRAIGHT
NO ZAHNER WE ALL WORK FOR THE MASTER
AND WHILE YOU WERE HIS INSTRUMENT, WE JOINED YOU
NOW HOWEVER...
...WE HAVE A MORE DIRECT LINK
TO THE ONE WHOM WE SERVE
GET OUT ZAHNER NOW
OR YOU MAY NOT GET TO LEAVE AT ALL.
TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

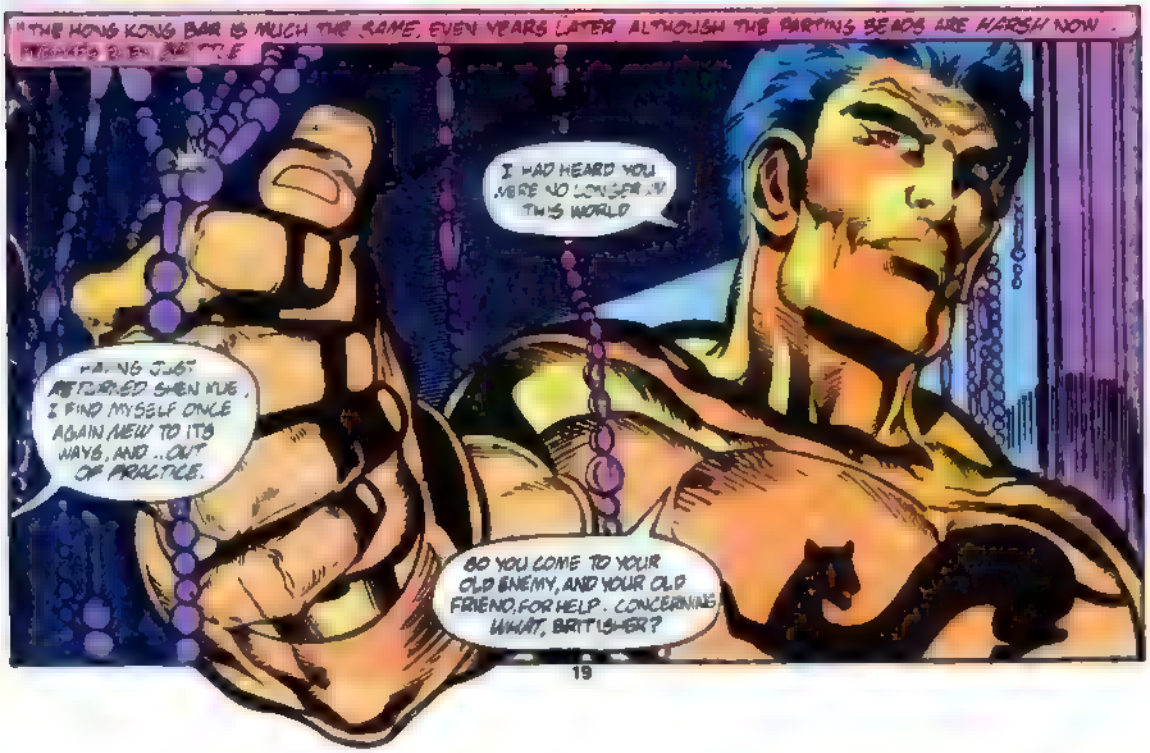
"LEIKO'S HAND...
DUNNO WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, CHINAMAN, BUT EVER SINCE YOU WENT OFF TO PLAY FISHERMAN--
EVER SINCE I WAS FORCED TO HUNT FISH.
WHATEVER.
ARG U3
WHICH MEANS, AS USUAL, WHATEVER WAY YOUR WEIRD MIND WANTS TO SEE IT.
MY MIND, TARR, IS TROUBLED.
NEWS FLASH OF THE YEAR, HUH?
THAT WHY YOU'RE ACTIN' ALMOST LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON?
ONCE YOU HAVE LEFT THE WORLD... YOU CANNOT COME BACK UNCHANGED.
JUST LIKE LEIKO WU'S HAND--WHICH PROVES YOU CAN'T BE RIGHT ABOUT SI-FAN ASSASSINS KIDNAPIN' HER.
CHECK OUT THIS FILE--IT'S THE GUY WE FIGURE IS BEHIND THE WHOLE TERROR ALLIANCE I BEEN TALKIN' ABOUT...
MASTER OF KUNG FU!
WHY NOT?
CROSSING LINES IV WATER
HE'S A SHADY ARMS MERCHANT WHO'S PROBABLY ORGANIZIN' ALL THE TERRORIST FACTIONS JUST TO CREATE A SINGLE HUGE CENTRALIZED PURCHASING SOURCE FOR HIS GOODS.

TAKE A LOOK AT HIS HAND CHINAMAN, OR RATHER THE LACK OF IT.
"YES.
FANCIES HIMSELF A MODERN PIRATE-- AND THAT PACKAGE OF FISH WITH WU'S HAND WAS LIKE A PERSONALIZED CALLING CARD.
HIS NAME?
HE'S CALLED ARGUS, BUT WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT H M-- PROBABLY AMERICAN AN' I GOT CONTACTS IN THE STATES CHECK'N' H M NOW
AND YOUR "PLAN"...IS A WAY OF REACHING H M?
EVENTUALLY, YEAH...IF WE'RE RIGHT
BUT FIRST WE'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH A LOOP BEFORE--
THEN I WILL LISTEN TO YOUR PLAN, AND I WILL PLAY YOUR GAME...BUT WITHOUT YOU --EITHER OF YOU.
NOW WAIT JUST A BLOODY MINUTE CHINAMAN
IF YOU STILL THINK YOU CAN JUST TAKE OVER AND SHOVE US OUT WITHOUT EVEN KNOWIN' THE DETAILS OF THE PLAN--
WILL YOU STOP ME, TARR?


EASY, TARR!
IF THE PLAN'S GOT ANY CHANCE OF WORKING AT ALL, WE DO NEED AN ASIAN, AND YOU AND I CAN ALWAYS PLAY BACK-UP..
BACK-UP TO HIM?!
YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT--AFTER I FACE THIS ARGUS.
YA SEE, RESTON?!
TARR'S GOT A POINT, CHI, AND ONCE YOU HEAR WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND, YOU'LL SEE IT'S SUICIDE FOR ONE MAN TO GO IT ALONE AND--

I DO NOT PLAN TO GO IT ALONE RESTON.


WHAT THE DEVIL DOES HE--
HE'S STRANGE, TARR--WE'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT.
STRANGE? HE'S A BLOODY FORTUNE COOKIE THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
..NOR WILL I EVEN HEAR YOUR PLAN ALONE.


THE HONG KONG BAR IS MUCH THE SAME, EVEN YEARS LATER ALTHOUGH THE FIRTING BEADS ARE HARSH NOW.
I HAD HEARD YOU WERE NO LONGER IN THIS WORLD
HAVING JUST RETURNED SHEN KUE, I FIND MYSELF ONCE AGAIN NEW TO ITS WAYS, AND..OUT OF PRACTICE.
SO YOU COME TO YOUR OLD ENEMY, AND YOUR OLD FRIEND, FOR HELP. CONCERNING WHAT, BRITISHER?

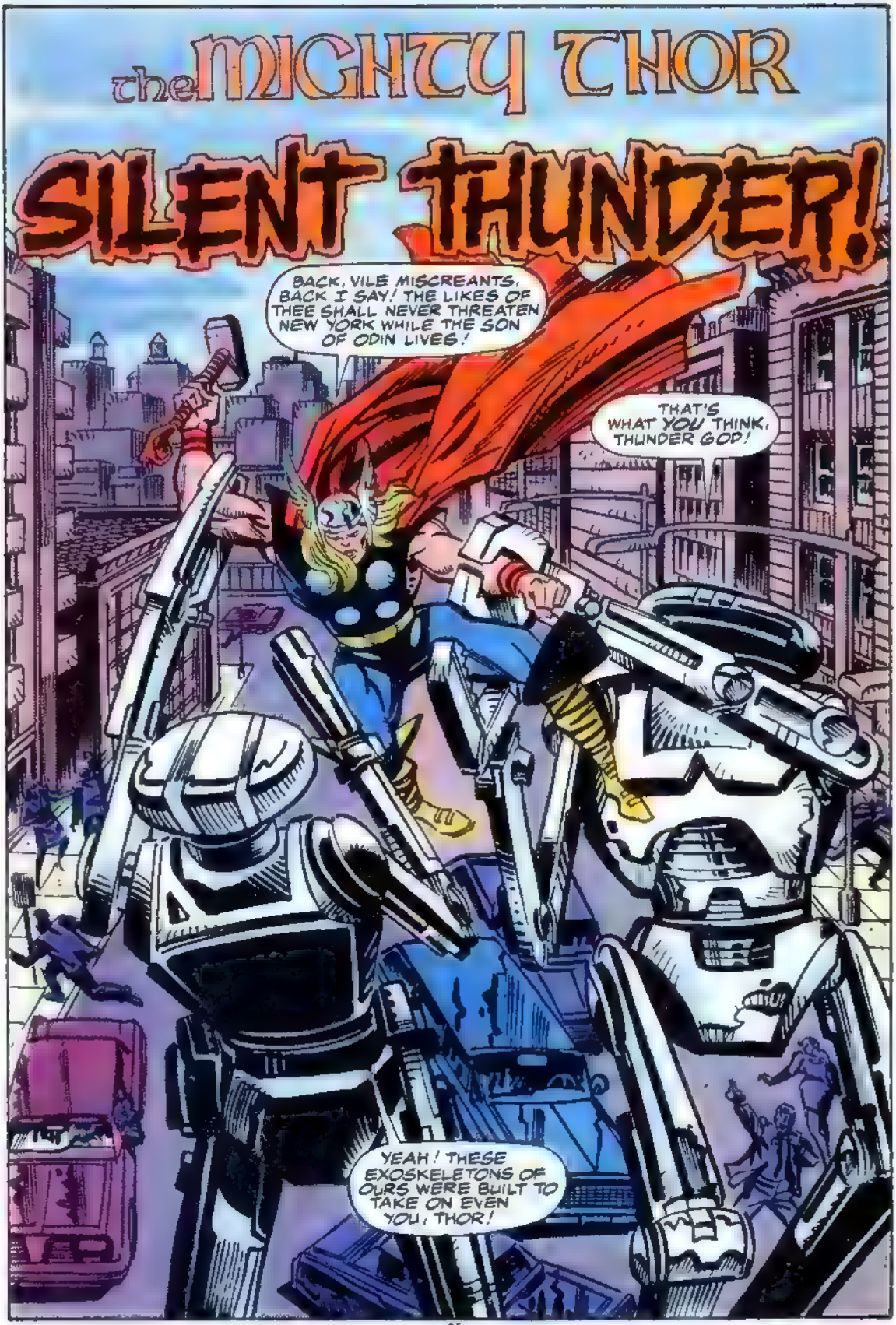
A WOMAN WE HAVE BOTH LOVED.
JULIETTE?
NO
THEN .. LEIKO
VERY WELL. . .FOR HER, I WOULD GLADLY GIVE ANOTHER LIFE
"AND IF I FINALLY MEET THE CAT'S EYES ONLY IN THE MIRROR--
"--IT IS STILL ENOUGH, AND I NOW KNOW, WITHOUT DOUBT
WHEREVER SHE IS, WE W'LL FIND LEIKO.
CAT STILL GOT YOUR TONGUE, GIRLIE?
NOW.. ONCE AGAIN, WHY DID THIS BOYFRIEND OF YOURS, THIS SHANG-CHI, RETURN TO HONG KONG?
HOW MUCH DOES YOUR "ORIENTAL EXPEDITERS" OUTFIT KNOW ABOUT MY OPERATION?
DO THEY KNOW THE LOCATION OF THIS BASE OR--
THAT'S A SHAME... BECAUSE YOUR BOYFRIEND'S GOT YOUR HAND BY NOW... AND AT THIS RATE THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING LEFT OF YOU... UNLESS YOU START TALKING.
DUFT
OOOUHH!
KIII--
RRATCH
--HAI!!

OOOPH!
CHUD
NICE KICKS, GIRLIE--FOR SOMEONE WHO'S LOST SO MUCH BLOOD!
FRAK
BUT NOW...
...I THINK OUR LITTLE CHAT IS--
SHWAKT
--OVER!
"BUT WHAT I DO NOT KNOW, NOT WITH CERTAINTY, IS IF WE WILL FIND LEIKO ALIVE.
NOW, THAT "LOOP" I MENTIONED, CHINAMAN, IS A ROUND-ROBIN ARMS DEAL WITH FOUR OR FIVE DIFFERENT STAGES OF TRANSACTION...
"AS ARRANGED WITH TARR AND RESTON I HAVE BROUGHT SHEN KUEI TO A JUNK ANCHORED IN THE HARBOR, SAFE FROM SURVEILLANCE.
SEE, THAT CONCEALS THE REAL BUYER AND SELLER, CIRCUMVENTS U.S. LAWS, AND PROBABLY BOOSTS PROFITS--BY ADDING A CUT AT EACH LINK IN THE LOOP.
AS GOOD FAITH TO CONVINCE THE TERRORIST FACTIONS THAT HIS IDEA OF ALLYING FORCES CAN WORK--AND ALSO TO GET THE TERROR NETWORK OFF THE GROUND WITH A BANG--
--ARGUS HAS PROMISED A CHOICE DELIVERY OF WEAPONS, DESTINATION SO FAR UNKNOWN...
...BUT YOU CAN BET IT'S TO THE BASE WHERE THEY'RE MEETIN' AN' TRAININ'.

THE ARMS, OF AMERICAN MANUFACTURE, WERE FIRST PURCHASED BY AN ISRAELI -- AND THEY'VE ALREADY CHANGED HANDS TWO OR THREE TIMES SINCE.
RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOT 'EM TRACKED TO A WAREHOUSE OUTSIDE TOKYO.
WE DON'T KNOW WHO OWNS THE WAREHOUSE -- MAYBE EVEN THE RED WOLVES TERRORIST FACTION...
...BUT WE DO KNOW THE ARMS WILL NEXT BE PURCHASED BY YAKUZA GANGSTERS -- IN TWO DAYS.
FROM THERE WE'RE IN THE DARK.
BUT IF WE'RE LUCKY...
...VERY, VERY LUCKY..
...THE YAKUZA ARE SLATED TO DELIVER THE SHIPMENT STRAIGHT TO THE TERRORIST TRAINING BASE.
WHERE YOU HOPE TO FIND ARGUS HIMSELF, HOLDING LEIKO CAPTIVE.
THAT'S RIGHT
LET ME GUESS...
SHANG-CHI AND I ARE TO TAKE THE PLACES OF THE YAKUZA BUYERS--
--AND SOMEHOW LEARN THE LOCATION OF THE BASE.
AND THEN ENTER THE BASE, POSING AS MEMBERS OF THE RED WOLVES.
UH.. YEAH
...SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT.
EXACTLY LIKE THAT, TARR, AND DON'T PRETEND OTHERWISE -- OUR ENTIRE BRILLIANT PLAN, SUMMED UP IN A HALF-MINUTE.

THE FIRST PART PERHAPS...
...HAS SOME SLIGHT POSSI-BILITY...
...BUT AS FOR THE SECOND PART, YOUR PLAN IS INSANE.
YEAH?
NOW LOOK, CHINAMAN...
IF YOU AN' YOUR LAT-TATTOOED FRIEND DON'T CLIMB ABOARD FAST--
--THE ONLY WAY WE'LL EVER GET WU BACK IS IN MORE BLOODY PIECES.
NO, TARR.
THE HAND WAS A WARNING, AND FOR NOW LEIKO IS STILL ALIVE.
...AS LONG AS NO ONE COMES AFTER HER.
AND SHE WILL STAY THAT WAY...
THEN YOU WANNA LEAVE HER IN THE HANDS THAT DID THAT TO HER?
"TO THAT, NO [illegible] NEEDED.
UH, SINCE WE'VE SAID ALL THE SENSITIVE STUFF, WHY DON'T WE GET BACK ASHORE ..LET THEM THINK ABOUT THEIR FINAL ANSWER.
"FOR ME, THERE IS LITTLE TO THINK ABOUT, OTHER THAN LEIKO AND TERROR
"SHEN XUEI, NO DOUBT...
"... THINKS ONLY ABOUT THE WATER, IF ANYTHING.

"WE REACH THE DOCKS.
WELL--?
AS SHEN KUEI SAID THE FIRST PART OF THE PLAN MAY HAVE SOME MERIT.
BUHWOOOM
WHAT THE--?!
THE JUNK!!
AND FROM THERE, BRITISHER, WE SHALL IMPROVISE.
YOU'RE CALLIN' THE CHINAMAN A B--
MISSED US BY MINUTES... BLOODY MINUTES.
"AND SO THE GAME OF DECEIT AND DEATH AND TERROR HAS BEGUN
"...BUT AS EVER, IT BEGAN LONG BEFORE I KNEW I WAS A PLAYER."
NEXT ISSUE: LURES

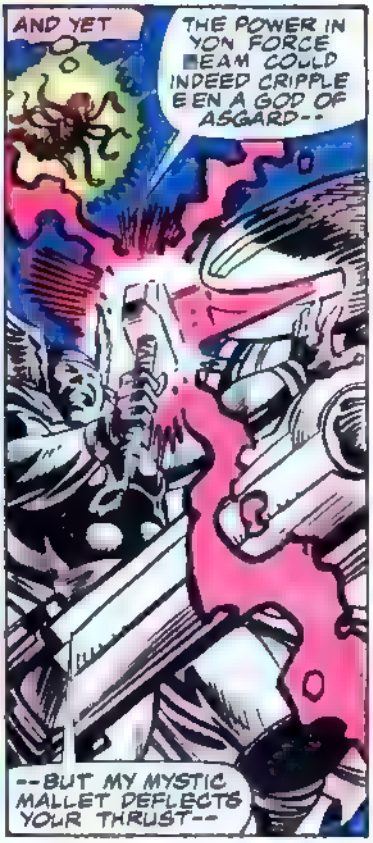

the MIGHTY THOR
SILENT THUNDER!
BACK, VILE MISCREANTS, BACK I SAY! THE LIKES OF THEE SHALL NEVER THREATEN NEW YORK WHILE THE SON OF ODIN LIVES!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, THUNDER GOD!
YEAH! THESE EXOSKELETONS OF OURS WERE BUILT TO TAKE ON EVEN YOU, THOR!

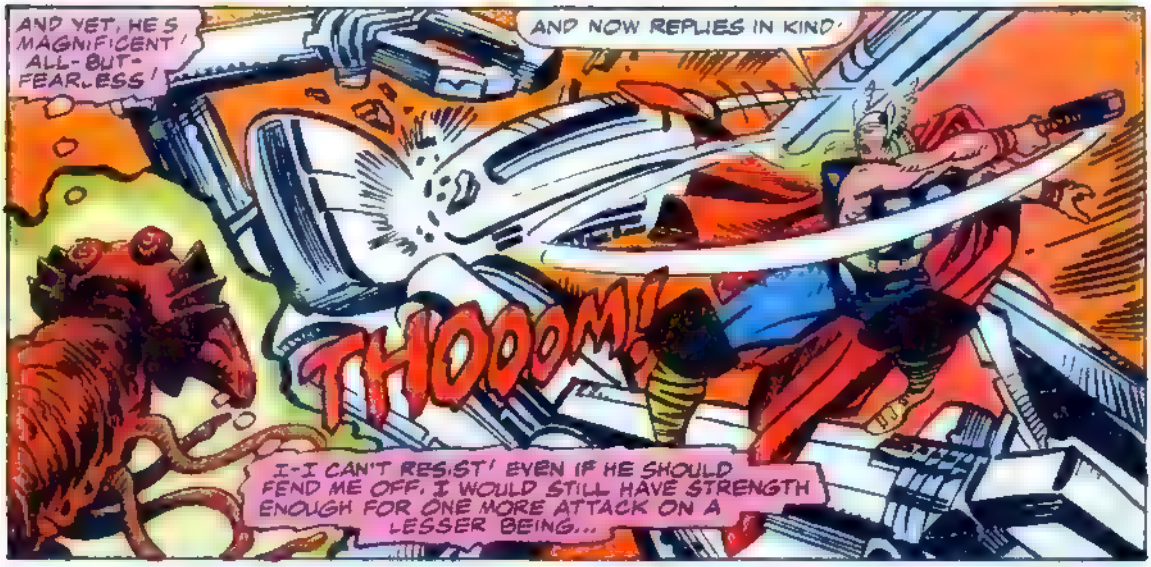
INVISIBLE TO THE PANIC-STRICKEN CROWD, THE ALIEN FEAR EATER IS DRAWN BY THE FEAR IT SENSES...
SO, ANOTHER OF EARTH'S COSTUMED DEFENDERS! DO I DARE TRY TO FEAST ON THIS ONE'S FEARS?

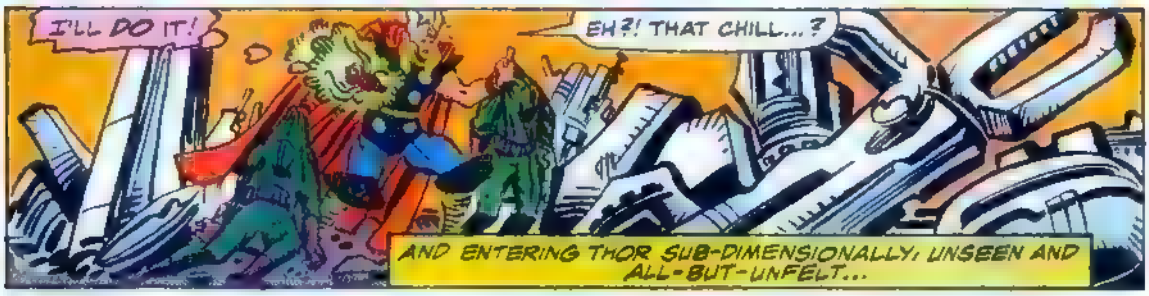
CHANCING UPON THE SILVER SURFER IN DEEP SPACE I LEARNED OF THESE BEINGS WHOSE COURAGE AND FEARS, TRANSCENDED THOSE OF ORDINARY MORTALS. THE PROSPECT OF SUCH FEAR-LADENED DELICACIES SPURRED ME TO RAVENOUS HUNGER.
BUT THE SURFER, CAPTAIN AMERICA, THE THING--

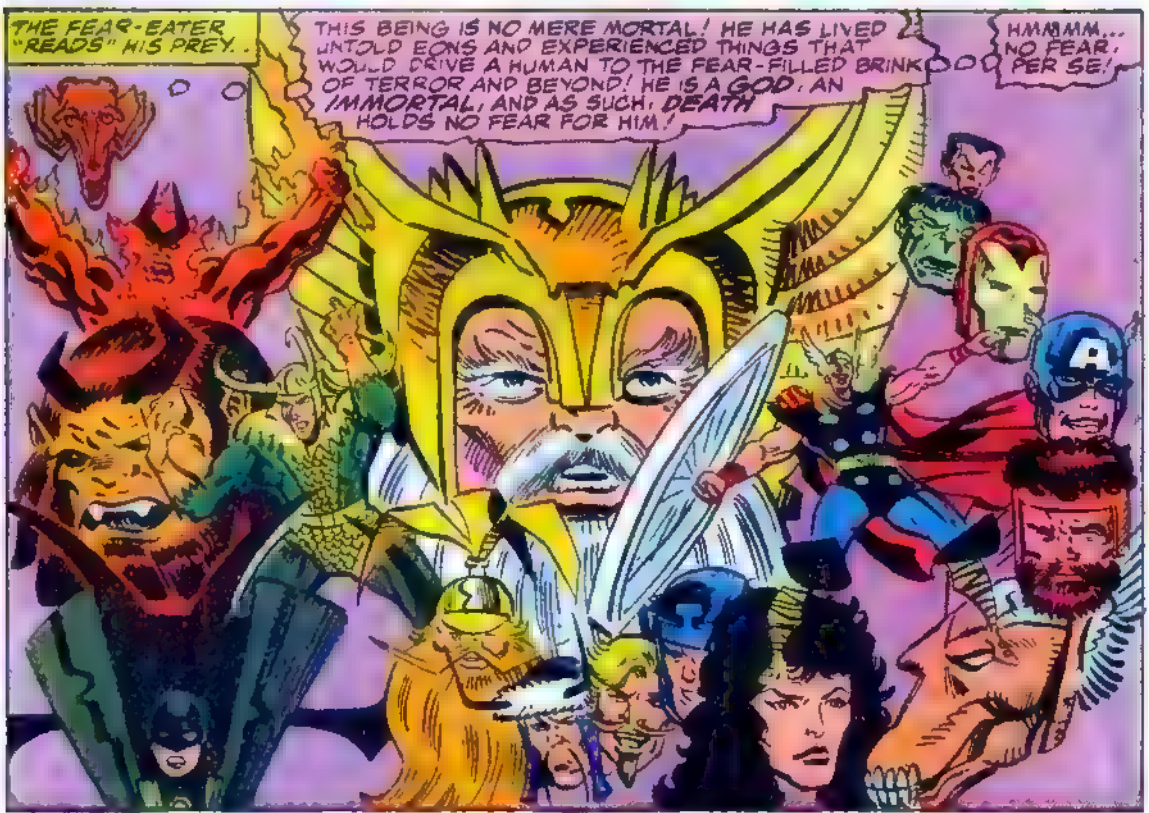
--EACH OVERCAME HIS DEEPEST FEARS, UNKNOWINGLY REPULSING ME IN THE PROCESS.
NOW, THOUGH THE THOUGHT OF RETURNING TO MY FORMER BLAND FARE--ORDINARY FEAR OF DEATH OR INJURY--LEAVES ME COLD, I AM NEAR TO STARVING!

BETTER TO GO FOR MY FEAR BASIC FOOD GROUPS. ONCE FORTIFIED, I CAN AGAIN SEEK OUT THE MORE DELECTABLE FORMS OF FEAR


AND YET
THE POWER IN YON FORCE BEAM COULD INDEED CRIPPLE EVEN A GOD OF ASGARD--
--BUT MY MYSTIC MALLET DEFLECTS YOUR THRUST--


AND YET, HE'S MAGNIFICENT! ALL-BUT-FEARLESS!
AND NOW REPLIES IN KIND!
THOOOM!
I-I CAN'T RESIST! EVEN IF HE SHOULD FEND ME OFF, I WOULD STILL HAVE STRENGTH ENOUGH FOR ONE MORE ATTACK ON A LESSER BEING...

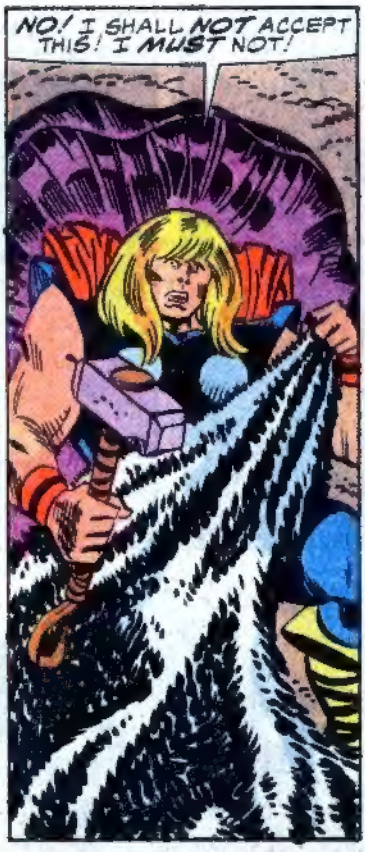

I'LL DO IT!
EH?! THAT CHILL...?
AND ENTERING THOR SUB-DIMENSIONALLY, UNSEEN AND ALL-BUT-UNFELT...


THE FEAR-EATER "READS" HIS PREY...
THIS BEING IS NO MERE MORTAL! HE HAS LIVED UNTOLD EONS AND EXPERIENCED THINGS THAT WOULD DRIVE A HUMAN TO THE FEAR-FILLED BRINK OF TERROR AND BEYOND! HE IS A GOD, AN IMMORTAL, AND AS SUCH, DEATH HOLDS NO FEAR FOR HIM!
HMMMM... NO FEAR, PER SE!

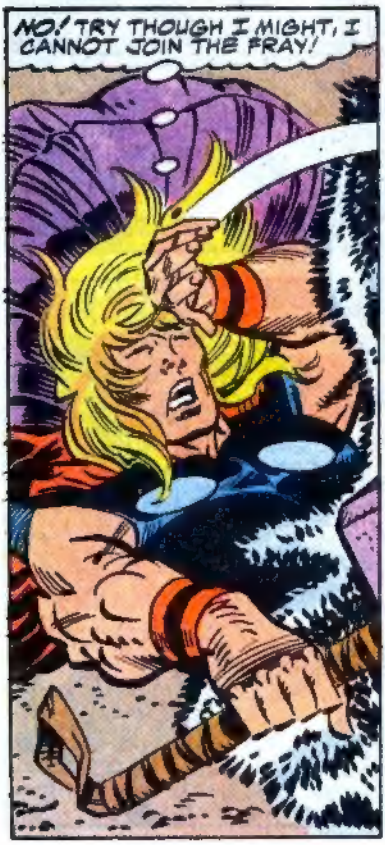
BUT IF I USE THE LAST OF MY POWER, TRANSFORM HIS SURROUNDINGS...
WHAT MADNESS IS THIS?! BALDER...?!
THE FINAL MADNESS, GOOD FRIEND! RAGNAROK! THE ULTIMATE BATTLE BETWEEN THE GODS OF ASGARD AND THE FORCES OF EVIL!
THERE! DESTROY MY HALF-BROTHER AND THE FORCES OF ASGARD WILL FALL LIKE DOMINOES! HEED THE WORDS OF LOKI, GOD OF EVIL!
AAAAAAAAA!
THOR!
NONE OF THESE PHANTOM WARRIORS I'VE CREATED HAVE THE POWER TO FELL THE THUNDER GOD-- BUT I DO!

I SAW NO BLOW STRIKE HIM!
NO MATTER! THOUGH IT PAINS VALIANT VOLSTAGG TO LEAVE THE FRAY NO ARMS BUT MINE OWN HAVE THE MIGHT TO BEAR MIGHTY THOR TO SAFETY!
WHAT SAY YOU, APOTHECARY? WHAT AILS ODIN'S SON?
I CANNOT EXPLAIN IT, VOLSTAGG! HE IS STRICKEN WITH SOME ILLNESS I KNOW NOT! IT COULD WELL PROVE FATAL!
NO!
THIS IS NO FIT ENDING FOR A GOD OF ASGARD! I SHOULD BE DOWN THERE, LEADING MY LEGIONS IN THE FINAL CONFRONTATION WITH THE EVIL ONES!
DEATH EARNED WHILE FIGHTING FOR A NOBLE CAUSE WOULD I WELCOME AND GLADLY!
BUT TO LIE HERE, STRICKEN, ENFEEBLED WHILE MY COMRADES FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT...
'TIS TOO MUCH TO BEAR!

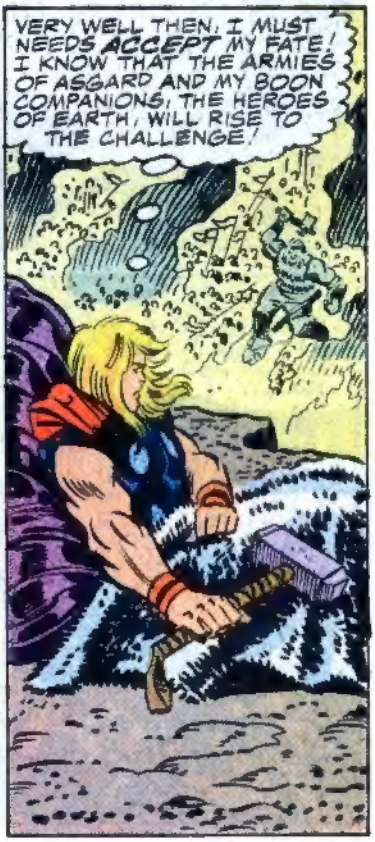
YES! FOR YOU IT IS, THOR! IT'S YOUR ULTIMATE FEAR! TO BE FORCED TO ACCEPT A PEACEFUL DEATH WHILE YOUR FRIENDS BATTLE TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE!
AND OH--WHAT A LOVELY, RARE, DELICIOUS FEAR IT IS!


NO! I SHALL NOT ACCEPT THIS! I MUST NOT!

OOLP! H-HE'S STRUGGLING TO RISE, FIGHTING OFF HIS FEAR!
AM I TO BE THWARTED YET AGAIN?! NO! NO! OH...

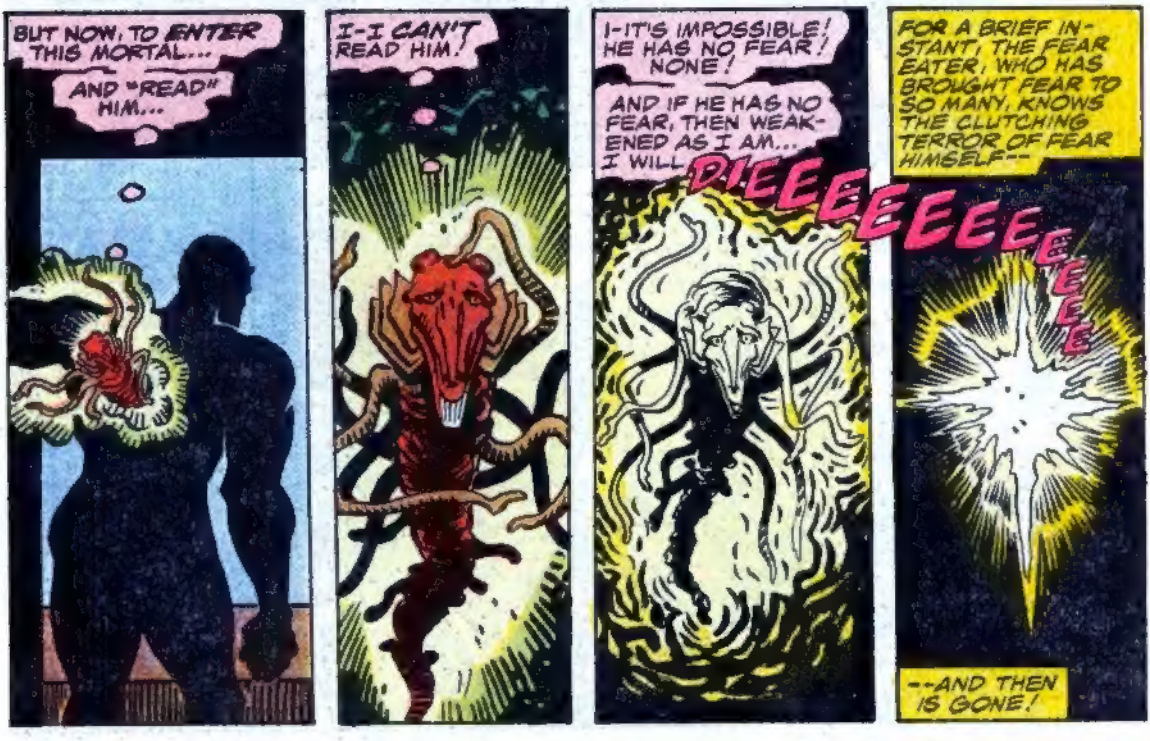

NO! TRY THOUGH I MIGHT, I CANNOT JOIN THE FRAY!

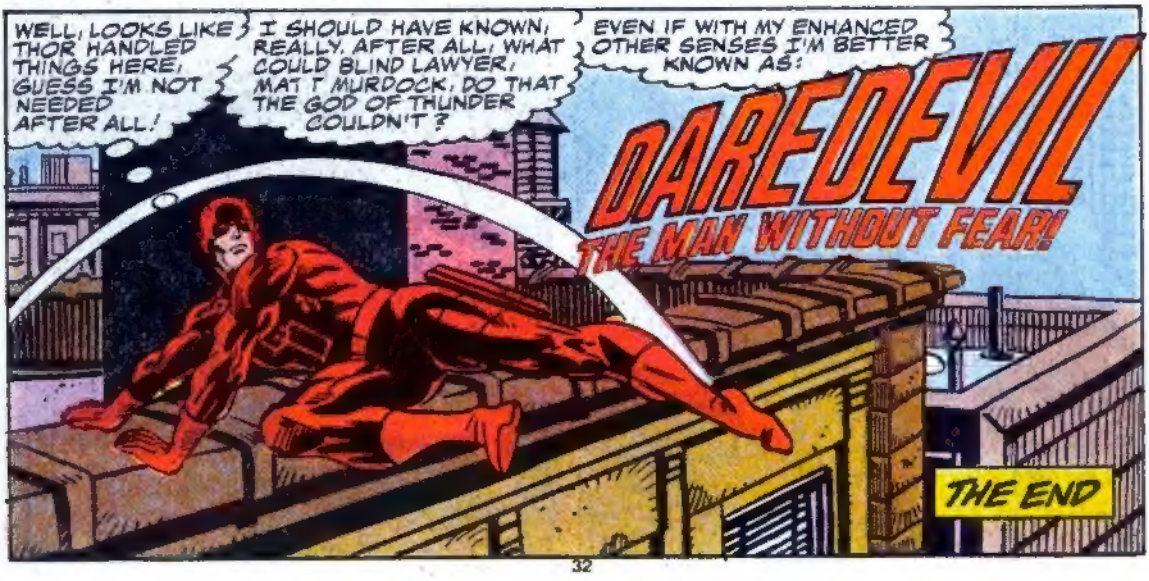
YES! THE FEAR FEAST WILL CONTINUE! I'VE BEATEN ONE OF THEM AT LAST!
BUT, WAIT...


VERY WELL THEN, I MUST NEEDS ACCEPT MY FATE! I KNOW THAT THE ARMIES OF ASGARD AND MY BOON COMPANIONS, THE HEROES OF EARTH, WILL RISE TO THE CHALLENGE!

I HAVE LEARNED MUCH IN RECENT YEARS AS I LIVED THE LIFE OF A MORTAL ON MIDGARD, NOT LEAST OF WHICH IS THE MORTAL DESIRE TO DIE A PEACEFUL, PAINLESS DEATH!
THOUGH IT RANKLES ME TO BE ABSENT FROM THIS CONFLICT--
--STILL IS IT SOMETHING I CAN LIVE... OR DIE WITH!
AND WITH THE PASSING OF HIS FEAR, THOR UNWITTINGLY DRIVES THE FEAR EATER FROM HIM AS WELL!
NOOOOOOOOOO!
EH?! I AM BACK IN THE CONCRETE CANYONS OF MIDGARD! WHAT DEVILMENT WAS THIS?
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A FEVER DREAM BROUGHT ON BY THE FORCE BEAMS I DEFLECTED!
NO MATTER! THESE NE'ER-DO-WELLS ARE STILL UNCONSCIOUS, THUS THOR BRINGS THEM TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES!
THAT WAS TOO MUCH! I MUST EAT AT ONCE, OR I'LL SURELY STARVE TO DEATH!
NO TIME TO BE FUSSY! I'LL JUST GRAB THE FIRST MORTAL MORSEL THAT COMES ALONG-- BUT THEY'VE ALL FLED FROM THE SITE OF THE BATTLE...

WAIT! HA! THERE'S ONE CURIOSITY SEEKER STILL IN THE VICINITY!
GOOD! ONCE I'M RESTORED, I'LL RETURN TO MY QUEST TO DEVOUR THE FEARS OF EARTH'S SUPER HEROES!
I'VE LEARNED FROM MY FAILURES; THE NEXT TIME I SHALL WIN! AND TOO BAD MY VICTIMS WILL DIE IN THE PROCESS!


BUT NOW, TO ENTER THIS MORTAL...
AND "READ" HIM...
I-I CAN'T READ HIM!
I-IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HE HAS NO FEAR! NONE!
AND IF HE HAS NO FEAR, THEN WEAKENED AS I AM... I WILL
DIEEEEEEEEEEEE
FOR A BRIEF INSTANT, THE FEAR EATER, WHO HAS BROUGHT FEAR TO SO MANY, KNOWS THE CLUTCHING TERROR OF FEAR HIMSELF--
--AND THEN IS GONE!


WELL, LOOKS LIKE THOR HANDLED THINGS HERE; GUESS I'M NOT NEEDED AFTER ALL!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN, REALLY. AFTER ALL, WHAT COULD BLIND LAWYER, MATT MURDOCK, DO THAT THE GOD OF THUNDER COULDN'T?
EVEN IF WITH MY ENHANCED OTHER SENSES I'M BETTER KNOWN AS:
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
THE END

FEATURING
THE MAN-THING
MASTER OF KUNG FU
the mighty THOR